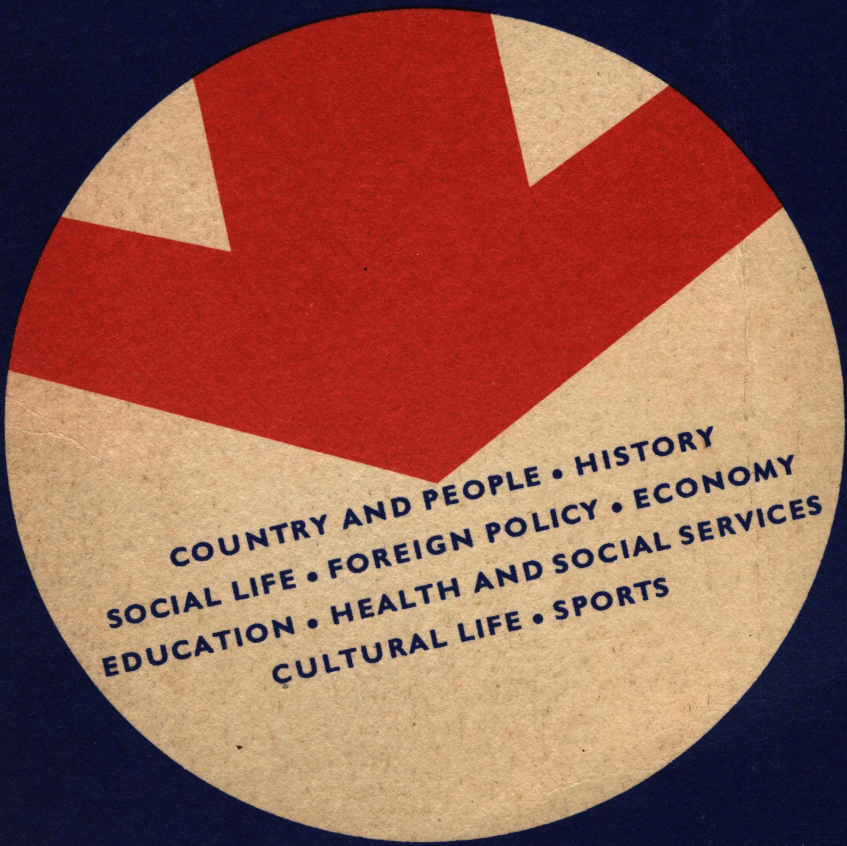
DISCOVER THE GDR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Discover the GDR

Facts and Figures about the German Democratic Republic

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This informative material can and intends to do no more than present to its readers a general survey of the German Democratic Republic. That means that though the facts and figures compiled in a very compact form do not claim to give a complete picture they do claim to be truthful.

These sober realities are to manifest the fact that the advances made in the development of the GDR to be the Socialist German state, which have been achieved within an historically brief space of time, would not have been possible without the GDR's close links with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal Socialist countries. They are the result of a hard and sacrificial struggle waged by the working class, the class of cooperative farmers and the other strata of the population allied with them.

The victory of the Socialist revolution was decisively based on the ability of the united party of the working class, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), to convince the people and to win them for the fulfilment of the great historic tasks.

Territory

The German Democratic Republic, which is situated in Central Europe, covers an area of 108,178 square kilometres. It extends from north to south over some 500 kilometres and from east to west for a distance of some 350 kilometres.

Berlin is the capital of the GDR.

The GDR borders in the east on the Polish People's Republic (Oder-Neisse Peace Frontier 456 kilometres), in the south on the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (430 km), and in the west on the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) (1,361 km). In the north, the Baltic Sea forms the natural border. West Berlin, a city with a special political status, lies in the middle of the GDR.

The largest islands:	
Rügen	926.4 sq.km.
Usedom (GDR share)	352.2 sq.km.

The largest lakes:	
Lake Müritz (Neubrandenburg County)	116.8 sq.km.
Lake Schwerin (Schwerin County)	63.4 sq.km.
Lake Plau (Schwerin County)	38.7 sq.km.
Lake Kummerow (Neubrandenburg County)	32.6 sq.km.

The highest elevations:	
Fichtelberg (Erzgebirge-Ore Mountains)	1,214 metres above sea level
Brocken (Harz)	1,142 metres above sea level
Auersberg (Erzgebirge)	1,018 metres above sea level
Grosser Beerberg (Thuringian Forest)	982 metres above sea level

Longest rivers:	
Elbe (GDR share)	566 km
Saale	427 km
Spree	398 km
Havel	341 km
Oder (GDR share)	162 km

The most important dams:

Bleiloch Dam (Saale)	215 million cubic metres of reservoir capacity
Hohenwarte Dam (Saale)	182 million cubic metres of reservoir capacity
Rappbode Dam (Bode)	108.5 million cubic metres of reservoir capacity

Natural Resources

The GDR is deficient in natural resources. The most important ones are brown coal (lignite), rock salt and potash. Practically all lignite deposits in Leipzig, Halle and Cottbus counties are open-cast workings. The GDR's salt and potassium deposits are located in Erfurt, Magdeburg and Halle counties.

There is little mineral oil, natural gas, hard coal and iron ore. In the uplands small deposits of lead, zinc, nickel and other non-ferrous metals are mined.

Climate

The GDR is situated in the transitional zone between the West European oceanic climate and the East European continental climate. A characteristic feature is the all-seasonal alternation between high-pressure and traversing low-pressure areas. In the lowlands annual precipitation is in part below 500 millimetres, while on the rainy crests of the uplands there is an annual precipitation of up to 1,500 mm.

Flora and Fauna

Animal and plant life correspond to the Central European weather and soil conditions. The forests in the North-German lowlands with their poor sandy soil consist mainly of pine trees and spruce. Larger closed forests, mainly consisting of fir trees, but also deciduous forests, mainly beech trees, are found in the uplands.

The only game are red deer, roe deer, wild pigs and hares. Birds include most of the Central European species.

The lighter soils are suitable for the growing of potatoes and rye, while on good mineral soils, as in Magdeburg county, wheat, sugar beets and vegetables are grown. There are a few wine-growing areas in a few climatically particularly favourable zones, such as in the Elbe valley between Dresden and Meissen and in the Unstrut valley near Naumburg (Halle county).

Population

The GDR has 17,056,983 inhabitants. The density of the population is 158 per square kilometre. Fifty-three per cent of the population live in towns with 10,000 or more inhabitants. The most densely populated areas are the industrially important counties of Halle, Leipzig, Karl Marx Stadt and Dresden.

Of the approximately 17 million inhabitants 9.2 million are of the female sex. As a result of the Second World War (fallen soldiers and drop in the birthrate) both the proportion of sexes and the age-structure of the population are unfavourable. Of the 17 million inhabitants only 9.9 million are of working age, that means that out of 100 inhabitants only about 58 are employable. There are some 19 pensioners and 23 children per 100 inhabitants.

Of 7.8 million employed persons (not counting apprentices) 3.7 million are women.

The total number of employed persons are distributed as follows:

in Socialist enterprises	6.57 million
in enterprises with state participation	0.49 million
in private enterprises	0.69 million

The average life expectancy is 69 years for men and 74 for women.

The number of live births is about 14 per 1,000 inhabitants.

National Minority

The Sorbs are the only national minority in the GDR. They live in Dresden and Cottbus counties and speak a West Slavic language. Their full political, social and national equality is guaranteed under the Socialist Constitution of the GDR. The following institutions serve the promotion of the Sorb language and culture: the Sorb Section of the Karl Marx University in Leipzig, the Institute of Sorb Ethnology, the State Ensemble for Sorb Popular Culture, the German-Sorb People's Theatre and the Nationally-Owned Domowina Publishing House for books and journals in the Sorb language. The Domowina, the Federation of Lusatian Sorbs, is the democratic mass organization of this national minority.

Counties of the GDR (as of 1 January 1971)

County	Area in sq.km.	Districts	Communities	Inhabitants
Rostock	7,074	13	405	858,846
Schwerin	8,672	11	547	597,378
Neubrandenburg	10,793	15	584	638,842
Potsdam	12,572	17	834	1,132,799
Frankfurt	7,185	12	474	680,576
Cottbus	8,262	15	715	861,061
Magdeburg	11,525	20	776	1,317,511
Halle	8,771	23	728	1,925,988
Erfurt	7,348	15	801	1,255,536
Gera	4,004	13	579	738,451
Suhl	3,856	9	408	553,020
Dresden	6,738	17	770	1,873,069
Leipzig	4,966	13	565	1,490,611
Karl Marx Stadt	6,009	24	681	2,047,854
Capital Berlin	403	1	1	1,085,441
GDR total	108,178	218	8,868	17,056,983

The Anti-fascist Democratic Transformation

On 2 August 1945 the main powers of the anti-Hitler coalition (Soviet Union, USA and Great Britain) laid down in the Potsdam Agreement, which was subsequently acceded to by France, the principles for a peaceful and democratic Germany.

In the Potsdam Agreement it was decided:
"At the earliest practicable date, the German economy shall be decentralized for the purpose of eliminating the present excessive concentration of economic power as exemplified in particular by cartels, syndicates, trusts and other monopolistic arrangements."

On 30 June 1946 a plebiscite was held in the Land of Saxony (in what was then the Soviet occupation zone) on the abolition of the economic power of the monopolists and nazi and war criminals and the transfer of their enterprises to national ownership. Ninety-four per cent of the electorate took part, of whom 77.7 per cent voted in favour of expropriation. Corresponding acts regulated, on this basis, expropriation in the other Lands of the Soviet occupation zone. By 1948, as many as 9,281 enterprises had been nationalized. The nationally-owned sector of the economy formed the socio-economic basis of the antifascist democratic order. It safeguarded the people's sovereign rights, which had been gained in the course of hard struggle, and became the foundation of a genuine democracy and of true self-determination of the people.

The expropriation of the war and nazi criminals in the Soviet occupation zone dealt a heavy blow to German imperialism. In one part of Germany it was deprived of the means of economic power for its aggressive and antipopular domestic and foreign policy. In East Germany the imperialist German big bourgeoisie ceased to exist as a class.

In the countryside, too, the power of the Junkers and big landowners was broken. German militarism, which had already plunged the world into two disastrous world wars thereby lost, for good, its economic basis on the territory of the present GDR. By way of a democratic land reform, 7,136 big landowners and 4,142 war criminals had their estates of 3,298,082 hectares (1 hec-

tare = 2.47 acres) expropriated without compensation and their former land was transferred, at no cost, to new peasants, resettlers and small-holders.

The Potsdam Agreement stipulated:
"War criminals and those who have participated in planning or carrying out nazi enterprises involving or resulting in atrocities or war crimes shall be arrested and brought to judgement."

From the very beginning the anti-fascist, democratic forces on the territory of the present GDR, led by the working class, have, both in their policy and legal practice, consistently implemented the generally-accepted principle of international law that war crimes and crimes against humanity are not subject to any statute of limitations. Between May 1945 and February 1971, as many as 12,825 persons were brought to judgement in accordance with the seriousness of their war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated during the era of fascism.

In the course of the democratic reconstruction of the administration all active nazis were removed from public and semipublic positions. Altogether 520,730 persons were dismissed, including all judges and public prosecutors who had been members of the nazi party or any of its organizations.

The Potsdam Agreement stipulated:
"German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate nazi and militarist doctrines and to make possible the successful development of democratic ideas."

On 18 October 1945 the two working class parties, the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) published a detailed program for an anti-fascist, democratic school reform which formed the basis for the "Law on the Democratization of German Education" which came into force in 1946 in the Soviet occupation zone. As a result of this law the teachings of nazism and militarism were for ever banned from the schools and the educational privileges of the upper classes abolished. Seventy-two per cent of the teachers, who had belonged to the nazi party, were removed from the educational service and replaced by 43,000 new teachers who had come mainly from the working class and other working sections. In

crash courses they at first prepared themselves for their new profession and subsequently acquired a complete qualification by way of direct and extension study. All leading educational positions were placed in the hands of tested anti-fascists.

The economic construction in the then Soviet occupation zone took place under extreme difficulties. The war damage was aggravated by the consequences of the separation of West Germany by the West German monopolies from the rest of Germany and the systematic disruption and sabotage of the economic construction effort.

In Germany's historically-developed economic area there was a concentration of the basic industries in the Rhine and Ruhr region. As to heavy machine building, the entire power-station machine industry, 96 per cent of the water turbine production and 95 per cent of the production of foundry machinery was located in West Germany. Thus the division of the German economy caused extremely severe disproportions on the territory of what is now the GDR. The entire metallurgical basis, for example, consisted of four obsolete blast furnaces. On the other hand, almost nine tenths of the industrial production on the present territory of the GDR had, before the war, been accounted for by the processing industry. This made that region particularly dependent on the supply of raw materials and semi-finished products. The elimination of those disproportions required great efforts and high investments.

In 1948, a two-year plan was drafted for the restoration of the national economy (1949–1950). The plan centred around the priority development of the basic and heavy industries without which no economy can prosper. As a result of the two-year plan the restoration and extension of major enterprises such as the Hennigsdorf and Riesa steel mills, the Unterwellenborn Max Foundry, the Ilsenburg Copper Mill, the Piesteritz Nitrogen Works and the power stations in Böhlen, Espenhain and Zschornewitz were started.

The working people strained every muscle to raise production. Supplies of steel, pig iron, coal and coke arrived from the Soviet Union which had borne the brunt of the war against Hitler Germany, from Poland and Czechoslovakia and helped to thwart the disruptive measures of the West German imperialists. When the

German Democratic Republic was founded on 7 October 1949, the nationally-owned sector had become further consolidated mainly thanks to the unselfish assistance rendered by the Soviet Union.

Share of Production in 1936 (per cent)

	on the present territory of the GDR	... of the FRG
Iron ore	5	95
Pig iron	2	98
Hard coal	3	97
Steel ingots	8	92
Hot-rolled steel	8	92
Cement	17	83
Phosphorous fertilizer	8	92

The most important prerequisite in the struggle for the construction of an anti-fascist, democratic state was the overcoming of the disastrous division of the German working class. In carrying out the land reform, the school reform and other measures, unity of action within the working class developed and became ever stronger. It was an historic deed when on 21 April 1946, in the then Soviet occupation zone the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party merged to form the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED). That day ushered in a new phase in the history of the German labour movement which is characterized by the fact that the revolutionary party of the united working class took over the leadership of the people and that the SED, in accordance with Marxist-Leninist principles, forged a firm alliance with the peasantry and the other working sections of the people.

With the approval of the Soviet occupation authorities four more anti-fascist, democratic parties were founded in 1945 which, led by the SED, formed the Bloc of anti-fascist, democratic parties. Thus the merger of the KPD and SPD as well as the development of unified free trade unions at the same time initiated the united front of all those opposed to Hitlerism.

Construction of a Socialist Social Order

Foundation of the GDR

Although in the zones occupied by the western powers (the USA, Great Britain and France), attempts were also made to draw conclusions from German history, to establish a united working class and to carry out a land reform and transfer the enterprises of monopoly capital into national ownership, the democratic forces of the German people there were unable to put their will into effect. Although the big bourgeoisie had been badly mauled by the military defeat of Hitler fascism, it was still able to muster sufficient strength to restore, within a short space of time, the old power relations. In this drive it was supported by the occupation powers, above all the USA, which, step by step, abandoned the positions of Potsdam and systematically sabotaged the implementation of the Agreement in the Western zones. The forces of reaction were also able to count on the backing by the rightwing leaders of the Social Democratic Party and of the trade unions who torpedoed the unification of the working class and were prepared to perpetuate their disastrous collaboration with the reactionary bourgeois parties.

With a view to preserving and restoring the old power relations at least in part of Germany, those forces carried into effect, against the aspiration of the German people, a series of measures devised to destroy the unity of Germany. After having carried through a unilateral currency reform in the western zones, they eventually set up the West German Federal Republic in September 1949, thus ignoring the German people's right to self-determination. That reactionary development found its continuation in the FRG's joining NATO and in its policy of cold war against the Socialist countries.

After the foundation of the FRG by the West German bourgeoisie and its accomplices a new situation had emerged. Now the issue was to provide a constitutional basis for the political and social achievements of the working people in the eastern part of Germany. Thus the founding of the German Democratic Republic on 7 October 1949 reflected the struggle which had

been waged for a decade between the forces of peace and democracy and those of imperialism and reaction. For the first time in German history a truly peace-loving and democratic state had thereby been established in which fascism and militarism, revanchism and race hatred have been abolished forever. This state embodies, at the same time, the aspirations of all progressive forces in their struggle for a state of peace and Socialism in which all power derives from the working class and its allies.

Laying the Foundations of Socialism

The splitting of Germany tore asunder the unified economic sphere exclusively to the disadvantage of the GDR which ranked, in the year of its foundation, among the economically most handicapped countries.

In that difficult period the far-sighted and scientific policy of the SED once again proved its value. The party realized that the young state could not prevail unless the economic disproportions were eliminated. In its draft for the first five-year plan, the party therefore concentrated on the establishment of a heavy industry and the extension of the basic industry as the prerequisite for a systematic and continual development of the national economy and the systematic raising of the living standards of all citizens. In accordance with these aims new enterprises came into being such as the Ost Integrated Metallurgical Works and the Freital Refined Steel Mill, the Schwarze Pumpe Brown Coal Combine and a number of large thermal power stations, the Rostock deep-sea harbour and the shipyards on the Baltic coast.

The construction of its own heavy industry basis, tied down large amounts of money and had the consequence, among other things, that in the field of the production of consumer goods many wishes had to remain unfulfilled. Yet despite all privations, ever larger sections of the people became increasingly convinced that the road embarked upon was the right one. The alliance between the working class and the other working strata had consolidated.

Thus, by 1952 the necessary prerequisites had been established, also from this aspect, for making a start in laying the foundations

for Socialism in a planned manner. The corresponding decision was adopted at the Second Conference of the SED.

For GDR industry this meant the further continued extension of the raw materials industry as the basis for the traditional branches of machine-building, the textile industry and the precision-engineering and optical industry. During that epoch new industries, too, emerged, such as the construction of chemical plant, power generating machines as well as the plastics and electronic industries. The Petrochemical Works in Schwedt and Leuna II took up production and assisted in ushering in the chemicalization of the national economy as a whole. The utilization of nuclear energy was tackled as a new source of energy.

In 1949, the year of its foundation, the GDR had an industrial production of no more than 22 thousand million marks, but it produced goods to the tune of 91 thousand million marks in 1965. Investments rose from 3.6 thousand million marks in 1950 to 22 thousand million marks in 1966. The GDR had advanced to the ranks of the world's leading industrial countries.

As far as agriculture is concerned, the pre-war level regarding yields and livestock had, in the early 1950s, already been surpassed in most cases while social and cultural conditions in the countryside had undergone a fundamental change. Ever more farmers had realized by that time that a further raising of yields depended on the application of modern farming technology on large areas. Consequently, the first farmers united in agricultural production cooperatives in 1952. Convinced by their successes, all GDR farmers had joined cooperatives by 1960. This decision of the farmers in favour of the cooperative method had not only established the basis for an upsurge in agricultural production but meant, at the same time, the implementation of Socialist relations of production in this important sphere, too. Thus, the national income from agriculture rose from 7,3 thousand million marks in 1949 to 12,1 thousand million marks in 1965.

Many artisans also joined production cooperatives on a voluntary basis. They, like those private firms which applied for state participation, were afforded new opportunities to raise production, to specialize and to establish close cooperation with Socialist industrial enterprises. In this manner, these sections of the population also made their contribution to Socialist construction.

In the years after 1952, the attitude of most of the working people towards work changed and increasingly developed into human activity in which man is able fully to employ his creative potential. This transformation also manifested itself in the growing number of working people, especially young workers, who submitted proposals for the improvement of machines and of the sequence of operations and developed new production processes in working groups.

Great strides were made within other social spheres, too. This was clearly shown in the development of an integrated public educational system. The ten-class general polytechnical secondary school was established. In the villages it replaced the remaining one-teacher schools. Measures such as the introduction of polytechnical training and the extension of natural science instruction ensured for every child a comprehensive general education in keeping with the requirements of modern society. At the same time the system of adult education was expanded. Finally, a process of an ever increasing inclusion of the citizens in the administration of the state, management and planning of enterprises took place. Various methods of concrete co-determination emerged particularly in those years.

On 13 August 1961 the GDR secured its state border. The ruling circles of the FRG and West Berlin had for many years waged brutal economic warfare against the GDR by exploiting the open frontier with West Berlin and had thus inflicted damage of at least 100 thousand million marks on this country. The securing of the state border not only prevented further disturbances of economic construction but also made it clear to the imperialist forces where their power ended.

The Tasks and Aims of Socialist Society in the GDR

Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED, at the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany held in the middle of June 1971 stated: "The principal task of the five-year plan (1971–1975) consists in further raising the material and cultural standard of living of the people on the basis of a rapid rate of development of Socialist production, in increasing effec-

tiveness and scientific and technical progress, and in accelerating the rate of growth of labour productivity."

Accordingly, in the period from 1971 to 1975 the real income of the people will grow by 21 to 23 per cent. Money incomes are to increase by an average of 4 per cent per year. In the same period 500,000 dwellings are to be built and handed over to the working people. The commodity fund is to go up from 65 thousand million marks in 1970 to 79 or 80 thousand million marks in 1975.

The goals mentioned here only in part can, however, be reached, as Erich Honecker declared, only if the active participation of the working people in management and planning is ensured on all levels of social life, espencially, however, in the enterprises. That begins with breaking the plans and costs down to the smallest production unit, it presupposes that the working people are regularly informed about the results and future tasks, and culminates in the adoption of a point of view on the draft plan and in the obligations assumed collectively to surpass the tasks assigned in Socialist emulation. The gains thus earned benefit the enterprise funds and are expressed in the level of bonuses paid to the working people. The workers and salaried employees in the nationally-owned enterprises know that what benefits society also benefits the individual. Scientific and technological progress demands a constantly growing level of education. Therefore, the system of public education must educate and train the children in the schools, the apprentices in the enterprises and the students in the colleges and technical schools in such a way that they can do justice to the requirements of the year 2,000.

Socialist society does not call for one-sided narrow specialists but for Socialist personalities endowed with an all-embracing intellectual and physical education. From this demand also arise tasks for culture and sports, health and social services. The state organs must, in close cooperation with the enterprises, create multiform facilities for a meaningful use of leisure time. For the completion of the construction of Socialism it is also necessary to continue the extension of Socialist democracy and the strengthening of the state and the system of national defence.

An indispensable prerequisite for the completion of the construction of Socialism is the permeation of all spheres of society by Socialist ideology, since Socialist construction can only be the

result of the conscious acting of all GDR citizens who increasingly work and live according to Socialist principles. To make use of every advantage of the Socialist system in a conscious manner and for the benefit of society as a whole is a task that cannot be solved by state decree. This makes necessary a daily creative reappraisal and cooperation by everybody and the feeling of being personnally responsible for the whole. This, however, is possible only in a Socialist society where the interests of the individual coincide with those of society as a whole.

The Constitution

The Socialist Constitution of the GDR was adopted on 6 April 1968 in a plebiscite. In the course of the comprehensive discussion which preceded that plebiscite, 12,454 proposals were submitted which resulted in 118 amendments to the draft. GDR citizens expressed their view at more than 750,000 meetings. The very fact that 94.49 per cent of the electorate voted in favour of the draft Constitution was, at the same time, a practically unanimous avowal of Socialism.

The Constitution is based upon the fundamental concept that Socialism can only be the result of the joint efforts of all working people. Its aim is, therefore, to develop all citizens into Socialist personalities who cooperate in planning, working and governing and bear responsibility for society as a whole.

The Socialist humanism of the Constitution which is expressed in the sentence: "Man is the centre of all efforts of Socialist society and its state" coincided with the avowal of a policy of peace and international understanding. Militarist and revanchist propaganda, warmongering and the voicing of hatred of creeds, races or nations are banned in the GDR and are punishable crimes.

The People's Chamber

The People's Chamber is the supreme organ of state power in the GDR. No one can limit its rights. All political parties and the major mass organizations are represented in it by way of parliamentary groups. The People's Chamber decides the basic issues of state policy and stipulates in laws and decisions, how to implement the tasks set by it. The Chamber supervises and controls the implementation of laws and decisions.

The Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the judges of the Supreme Court and the Procurator General as well as the Chairman of the National Defence Council are elected by the People's Chamber which determines the principles of the activities of these organs.

The People's Chamber has the exclusive legislative power which includes the making of decisions on the long-term, economic and budget plans. Before being passed by the People's Chamber, bills are, as a rule, thoroughly discussed by the Council of State and the committees of the People's Chamber. These discussions are attendet by experts, scientists and representatives of mass organizations.

The Constitution stipulates that bills on fundamental issues are, prior to their adoption by the People's Chamber, submitted to the public for examination and discussion. The proposals made by the people are taken into account when the bill receives its final version.

The rights and duties of the deputies—this applies in principle to those of all popular representative bodies—are laid down in the Constitution. These duties are determined by the responsibility of the people's representatives towards their constituents. Deputies are not full-time members of parliament but working people who maintain close contacts with their electors at their place of work. The deputies are obligated to hold regular consultation hours and discussions and to report to their electors on their activities. The deputies cooperate closely with the committees of the National Front and the mass organizations. A deputy who grossly infringes his duties—which is an extremely rare case—may be recalled by his electors.

The deputy is released from his ordinary occupation, insofar as this is necessary for the fulfilment of his parliamentary duties. Members of the People's Chamber enjoy immunity.

The People's Chamber elects a Presidium which is composed of a president, a vice-president and further members. It conducts the plenary sessions. The People's Chamber forms committees from among its members to deal with all major social, economic and cultural issues. Their main objective is to participate in the scientifically based drafting of bills and to check on the observance of the law. They take into account the views of experts and specialized citizens and cooperate with the local representative bodies, their deputies and the committees of the National Front. Wherever it appears necessary, the committees also form special working groups which discuss bills with the citizens of certain territories or occupations. Of the 500 members of the People's Chamber in 1971 266 are of working-class origin.

The President of the People's Chamber is Gerald Götting (CDU).

The Council of State

The Council of State as a permanently operating organ of the People's Chamber, between its sessions fulfils all fundamental tasks resulting from the laws and decisions of the People's Chamber. It is responsible and accountable to the People's Chamber for its activities.

The Council of State is composed of the Chairman, the deputy chairmen, members and the secretary. It is elected by the People's Chamber for a term of four years. Within the Council of State there cooperate leading representatives of all political parties and the major mass organizations, the President of the People's Chamber, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, the President of the National Council of the National Front, as well as experienced heads of state and economic organs, workers and cooperative farmers, prominent scientists and cultural workers.

The Chairman of the Council of State represents the German Democratic Republic in international law. He appoints and

recalls the plenipotentiary representatives of the GDR in other countries and accepts the credentials and documents of recall from diplomatic representatives of foreign states who are accredited to the GDR.

The Chairman of the Council of State is Walter Ulbricht (SED). The deputy chairmen are Friedrich Ebert (SED), Willi Stoph (SED), Gerald Götting (CDU), Dr. Manfred Gerlach (LDPD), Professor Dr. Heinrich Homann (NDPD) and Hans Rietz (DBD).

The Council of Ministers of the GDR

The Council of Ministers conducts the entire business of the government. It organizes, on behalf of the People's Chamber, the fulfilment of the political, economic, cultural, social as well as the defence tasks of the Socialist state assigned to it. In carrying out its tasks and responsibilities, the Council of Ministers is bound by the principles which the People's Chamber determines for its activities. The Council of Ministers operates on the basis of the legal enactments and decisions of the People's Chamber as well as the decrees and decisions of the Council of State.

The Council of Ministers has to organize, in particular, Socialist planned economy, and to direct the development of the national economy according to plan. The Council of Ministers is responsible and accountable to the People's Chamber.

The Chairman and members of the Council of Ministers are elected by the People's Chamber for a period of four years. The strongest parliamentary group of the People's Chamber nominates the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. The People's Chamber may pass a vote of no confidence in the government or individual ministers and cause them to retire.

The Council of Ministers is composed of the chairman, the deputy chairmen and the ministers who conduct, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, specific branches of the national economy and other social spheres. The program of the Council of Ministers is submitted, together with the government declaration, to the People's Chamber and confirmed by that body.

The Council of Ministers is empowered to issue decrees and make decisions. In meeting its obligation to check on the imple-

mentation of its decisions, the Council of Ministers hears reports on the fulfilment of plans, scientific analyses and reports submitted by the heads of its organs.

In its activities, the Council of Ministers bases itself on the experiences and creative work of all citizens. Thus the Council of Ministers forms working groups consisting of scientists and experts for the solving of certain tasks. It calls conferences of industrial branches, puts up for discussion the problems which are important for the development of the national economic field concerned, and includes in its decisions the experiences and ideas of thousands of specialists from science and practice.

Subordinate to the Council of Ministers are the ministries and a number of additional central state bodies, such as the State Planning Commission and the Committee of Workers' and Farmer's Control which combines control by the state and society over the observance of legal norms in all fields of social life in the GDR.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers is Willi Stoph (SED); his deputies are Horst Sindermann (SED), Alfred Neumann (SED), Dr. Kurt Fichtner (SED), Manfred Flegel (NDPD), Günter Kleiber (SED), Wolfgang Rauchfuss (SED), Hans Reichelt (DBD), Gerhard Schürer (SED), Rudolph Schulze (CDU), Dr. Gerhard Weiss (SED), Dr. Herbert Weiz (SED) and Dr. Kurt Wünsche (LDPD).

The Local People's Representative Bodies

The popular representative bodies in the counties, districts, towns and communities are parts of the integrated system of state organs. Like the deputies of the People's Chamber, the deputies of the county, district, borough, town and community assemblies are elected by their respective electorates on the basis of a joint list of the National Front. They are accountable to their electors and may be recalled by them if they fail in their duties.

In between sessions of the local representative bodies, which are elected for a period of four years, the deputies work mainly within standing commissions which are formed for the most im-

portant spheres of political, economic and cultural life in accordance with local conditions. These commissions may be supplemented by citizens who are not deputies. The standing commissions which are in charge of preparing, implementing and controlling the decisions of the people's representative bodies, set up groups consisting of active and expert citizens for their support. At present, some 400,000 citizens cooperate in such a capacity in dealing with local problems.

The collective executive organs of the popular representative bodies are the county, district, municipal and community councils which direct social development in their areas. The councils are elected and recalled by the people's representative bodies and are responsible for their activities to the representative body concerned.

The local representative bodies decide, within the framework of central planning and management, on their own responsibility, all matters concerning their area and its citizens. The main task is the systematic shaping of Socialist working and living conditions in such a manner that the people's representative bodies closely cooperate with the enterprises situated in their respective areas. All projects for the improvement of living and working conditions, such as the construction of crèches and kindergartens, the establishment of new health centres and facilities for shopping and services are explained in detail by the representative bodies and their deputies in various bodies and at numerous meetings. What is required there is not only the consent of the people to these projects but likewise their active cooperation within the framework of voluntary unpaid labour.

Political Parties

There are five political parties in the GDR which cooperate within the Democratic Bloc. The Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) is the party of the working class. Being the largest, best organized and most consistent party in the struggle for progress and peace the SED, in alliance with the various classes and sections of the

population, is the leading force in the construction of the Socialist order of society. It is able to cope with this task because it is guided by the scientific principles of Marxism-Leninism and by an exact prognosis of the development of society.

The Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany (DBD) has as its members mainly cooperative farmers as well as other people who work in Socialist agriculture and food production and actively cooperate in the shaping of the Socialist social order.

The Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) is the party of Christians working for peace, democracy and Socialism and is the spokesman of the Christian section of the GDR population.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD) comprises mainly craftsmen, entrepreneurs, private partners of enterprises with state participation, shopkeepers and members of the intelligentsia. This party has developed, while perpetuating the humanist and revolutionary-democratic traditions of the German bourgeoisie, into a party which lends its whole-hearted support to the construction of Socialism.

The National Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD) unites craftsmen, retail dealers, private partners of enterprises with state participation, entrepreneurs, salaried employees and intellectuals including quite a few who used to be adherents of fascism and militarism but have long since made a clean break with that past and now cooperate, at the side of the working class, in constructing Socialism.

The chairmen of the political parties are:
Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED
Ernst Goldenbaum, Chairman of the DBD
Gerald Götting, Chairman of the CDU
Dr. Manfred Gerlach, Chairman of the LDPD
Dr. Lothar Bolz, Chairman of the NDPD

Mass Organizations

There are several major mass organizations in the GDR which represent certain interests for the benefit of society as a whole and unite wide circles of the population.

The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB), the united and all-embracing mass organization of the working class, has a membership of more than 6.8 million workers who are organized in 13 unions. The FDGB has comprehensive rights to a crucial part in shaping Socialist society. It has its own parliamentary group, nominates its candidates for elections to the local people's representative bodies and organizes, through its representative bodies, whose members are elected in the enterprises, the participation of the working people in the management of the enterprises. Such bodies are the enterprise trade union committees and permanent production councils.

The Democratic Women's Federation of Germany (DFD) organizes women from all sections of the population for active participation in Socialist construction and does everything in its power to assist in implementing in practice to an ever increasing extent the equality of women in all spheres of society, as laid down in the GDR Constitution. The DFD, with 1.3 million members, is likewise represented in the People's Chamber by its own parliamentary group.

The Free German Youth (FDJ), the Socialist youth organization of the GDR, unites in its ranks 1.7 million young people between the ages of 14 and 25 years. It regards its paramount task to be to educate young people in the spirit of peace, Socialism and international friendship and to organize all girls and boys as conscious co-shapers of Socialist society. The FDJ is represented in the People's Chamber by its own parliamentary group. The FDJ is also in charge of the Ernst-Thälmann Young Pioneer organization, the Socialist mass organization of GDR children, to which nearly 1.8 million school-children between the ages of 6 and 14 belong.

The German League of Culture (KB) places the promotion of a Socialist German national culture and the enrichment of intellectual and cultural life in the GDR in the centre of its activi-

ties. It, too, is represented in the People's Chamber by its own group.

The German Gymnastics and Sport Federation (DTSB) has a membership of more than 2.2 million who are organized in 7,416 sports clubs. Its purpose is to win ever increasing numbers of citizens for regular sports activity.

The German-Soviet Friendship Society (DSF) with a membership of about 3.5 million, one of the largest mass organizations in the GDR, imparts the great wealth of experience made by the Soviet people in the construction of Socialism and Communism in all spheres of society. One of its greatest achievements is the fact that comradely cooperation with the peoples of the Soviet Union has become a cause dear to the hearts of GDR citizens.

Further organizations are:
Union of German Consumer Cooperative Societies (VDK)
Farmers' Mutual Assistance Federation (VdgB)
Society for Sports and Technology (GST)
German Red Cross in the GDR (DRK)
People's Solidarity (VS)
Committee of Anti-fascist Resistance Fighters
Peace Council of the GDR
Union of German Journalists (VDJ)
Union of Democratic Lawyers
German Writers' Union (DSV)
Union of German Composers and Musicologists
Union of Pictorial Artists
Committee for the Protection of Human Rights
German League for the United Nations
Urania: Society for the Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge

The League of the GDR for Friendship Among the Peoples unites and represents the efforts of the friendship societies existing in the GDR:
German-British Society
German-French Society
German-Nordic Society
German-Italian Society

German-Belgian Society
German-African Society
German-Arab Society
German-Latin American Society
German-South-East-Asian Society
GDR–Japan Friendship Committee
Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries
GDR Society for Links with Citizens of German Origin Living Abroad–Neue Heimat Society

The League of the GDR for Friendship Among the Peoples maintains relations of friendship with other peoples by maintaining contact with more than 130 countries throughout the world.

The chairmen of the most important organizations are:
Herbert Warnke, Chairman of the National Executive of the FDGB
Ilse Thiele, Chairman of the National Executive of the DFD
Dr. Günther Jahn, First Secretary of the Central Council of the FDJ
Professor Max Burghardt, Chairman of the Presiding Council of the German League of Culture
Dr. Lothar Bolz, President of the German–Soviet Friendship Society
Manfred Ewald, President of the German Gymnastics and Sports Federation

The National Front of the German Democratic Republic

The alliance of all forces of democratic Germany finds its organizational expression in the Socialist people's movement of the National Front of the German Democratic Republic, under the leadership of the party of the working class. Within the National Front all political parties and mass organizations join their forces for joint activities for the development of Socialist society. They establish the conditions for all citizens to live together within the Socialist community of man, according to the principle that each individual bears responsibility for the whole.

The National Front is in charge of elections. Representatives of all five political parties and the mass organizations FDGB, DFD, FDJ and KB stand for election to the People's Chamber and the local people's representative bodies in the counties, districts, towns and communities on a joint list of the National Front. It organizes public discussions of the most important national and international issues, bills and long-term plans and assists and promotes the citizens' activities in the implementation of economic and social projects in the counties, districts, towns and communities.

The President of the National Council of the National Front of the German Democratic Republic is the non-party scientist, Professor Erich Correns.

Socialist Democracy

Article 21 of the GDR Constitution provides: "Every citizen of the German Democratic Republic is entitled to participate fully in shaping the political, economic, social and cultural life of the Socialist community and the Socialist state. The principle shall be applied 'Participate in working, in planning and in governing!'"

This right to participation in running affairs includes the obligation of every citizen to bear responsibility for the whole and to put the unity of Socialism and democracy into effect in everyday practice. This participation in government is increasingly becoming an inner need of the citizens.

Socialist democracy finds its principal expression in the working people's comprehensive participation in the management and planning of Socialist enterprises, in the trade unions' growing role, and in Socialist emulation. It is documented by the fact that agricultural production cooperatives and craft production cooperatives are themselves responsible for their management; it is evidenced by the participation of people from all walks of life in the cooperation between trade and crafts enterprises of different forms of ownership.

The following figures make clear how the right to co-determination is being implemented:

1,440,000 working people are elected trade union officials

150,000 working people serve on the permanent production councils of their enterprises

400,000 citizens serve on the standing committees of their local people's representative bodies and their active groups

335,000 citizens have been elected to the committees and working groups of the National Front

160,000 citizens are unpaid co-workers of the Workers' and Farmers' Control

300,000 citizens are lay judges and members of disputes commissions or local arbitration commissions

632,000 citizens are elected members of 95,000 parent-teacher associations at the class level and of 7,900 parents' advisory councils of schools

240,000 citizens are members of advisory councils of the state-owned and consumer trade advisory councils.

Every fourth citizen of the GDR is at present participating actively in one form or another in the guiding and management of the state and of social life as a whole. One aspect of the humanist nature of Socialist society consists in its seeing to it that its citizens steadily increase their knowledge and skills in order that they may then share in exercising Socialist state power more and more expertly. The phrase that thinking is the citizen's first duty carries great weight in the GDR.

Equal Rights for Women and Young People

The Socialist Constitution, the Law on the Protection of Mother and Child and the Rights of Women, and the Family Code all ensure GDR women economic and political equality.

Women receive equal pay for equal work. The right to work holds good for women as it does for all citizens. Women make up nearly half of the republic's working population, and more than

three quarters of the female population of working age are gainfully employed. Nearly 100,000 women serve on the trade union women's commissions where they see to it that work is made easier for working women and girls. They also see to it that they are encouraged and helped to improve themselves vocationally.

At present, nearly half of all those acquiring skilled worker's certificates in industry and agriculture are women and girls. Half the students at the technical schools and more than one third of college students are women.

GDR technical schools and colleges in addition provide special classes where working women can acquire higher qualifications in full-time, extension or evening study. Evening class students are given up to 20 hours a week paid time off from work. Full-time students receive up to 90 per cent of their previous average net earnings.

Many women occupy senior posts in the state apparatus and in the economy. For instance, every fourth deputy is a woman. One third of the judges and over ten per cent of the mayors are women. Every fourth school is headed by a woman. One third of the managers in Socialist industry are women.

The right to political co-determination, to work, education and recreation, and the right to equal pay for equal work is also valid for young people in the GDR.

A special Youth Law guarantees that steadily increasing responsibility is delegated to young people at work, in political and social life, at study, in teaching and research. Responsibility is delegated in accordance with their knowledge and abilities, and has already become an everyday occurrence in the GDR. The united youth organization, the Free German Youth (FDJ), has a large share in this. Every second young person is a member of the FDJ which represents every aspect of the rising generation's interests. The FDJ has its own 40-strong parliamentary group in the People's Chamber. Over 41,000 deputies of the popular representative bodies are not more than 30 years of age. Hundreds of young people have been elected mayor. Approximately half of the working people with a college or technical school education and one fifth of all leading personnel in the economy are not older than 35.

In the past young people in the GDR have been responsible for

the management and the completion of the construction of many large industrial projects. They include, for example, the new Petrol-Chemical Works of Schwedt and Leuna II, the Rostock deep-sea harbour, dams and power stations. The Nord Nuclear Power Station is the biggest youth project under construction at present, but it is only one of thousands.

The annual Young Innovators' Fair is particularly indicative of the high standards reached in the training young people receive, and of their performances. In 1971 840,000 young innovators and inventors exhibited their products and helped to increase economic efficiency considerably.

A large number of young people spend part of their leisure time in the many hobby circles that are run by youth clubs and houses of culture; and they also go in for organized sport.

The Legal System

The administration of justice in the GDR serves the protection and the development of the Socialist state. It protects the people's freedom, their peaceful life, their rights and their dignity. Combating and preventing crime is a concern which is shared by the legal system, the state and all citizens.

There are various opportunities open to the people to take part in the administration of justice and to check as to whether Socialist law is being observed.

Justice is dispensed in the GDR by the Supreme Court, the county and district courts, and by social courts (disputes commissions and arbitration commissions). All judges, lay judges and members of social courts are elected either by the parliaments or directly by the citizens. They are obligated to report back to their electors who may recall them if they happen to give grave offence. People who dispense justice are independent and bound only by the Constitution and the laws of the GDR. Lay judges have the same voting rights as the professional judges. The Constitution guarantees the accused's right to defence.

Approximately three quarters of all judges and more than four

fifths of all public prosecutors are of working-class origin. Not a single judge was in the nazi party.

Representatives of state and economic bodies, social organizations, enterprise managements or collectives may appear as social counsel for the prosecution or as social counsel for the defence when a criminal case is tried in court and expound the opinion of the body they represent about the offence and the offender. This helps the court to discover the truth and arrive at a just verdict.

Disputes commissions operate in GDR enterprises and institutions. They receive guidance from the trade unions. They hear labour disputes, violations of labour morality and labour discipline, petty offences committed by first offenders, civil law disputes and other uncomplicated conflicts. The examining organs, the office of the district or county procurator and the courts may pass petty offences on to their jurisdiction. As social bodies they are entitled to decide on measures designed to educate the offender, for example, that he apologizes to his collective, that he undertakes to make good the damage he has caused, etc.

The arbitration commissions in the residential areas, production cooperatives and private enterprises have similar tasks. In particular, they hear violations of the law committed by citizens in their residential area in the course of social life. The arbitration commissions rely on the confidence of the entire population. They work on the basis of the law on their own responsibility.

The significance of society as an educator of offenders has grown. In the GDR some 80 per cent of all offenders receive conditional sentences. This means that they have to prove themselves in special measure at work for a certain time and conduct themselves in such a way that they do not again commit punishable offences.

Work teams can suggest to the courts that the offender be sentenced to a penalty not involving detention. In this case they will at the same time declare their readiness to guarantee for the offender. This means that they undertake to help educate the accused, but it does not mean that they will be held liable for any fresh minor offence he may happen to commit. The courts may obligate the offender in their sentence not to change his place of work or a place of work he is assigned to.

The National People's Army and People's Police

The National People's Army (NVA) exclusively has the task of protecting the territory and frontiers of the GDR, Socialist construction and the peaceful life of the population.

Together with seven Socialist countries, the GDR government signed the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on 14 May 1955. The contracting parties have committed themselves to immediate military assistance in the event of an armed imperialist attack on one or more member states.

The NVA carried out measures on 13 August 1961 in agreement with the other Warsaw Treaty countries, and with the support of Soviet troops, which since that day have guaranteed the stable and effective protection of the GDR's state frontiers with the FRG and West Berlin.

The People's Chamber passed the General Conscription Act on 24 January 1962.

Eighty-eight per cent of the officers and generals of the National People's Army are workers and farmers by social origin, and 12 per cent come from other working strata. Ninety-five per cent of NVA officers are either members or candidate members of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. Nineteen NVA generals, among them the Minister of National Defence, General of the Army Heinz Hoffmann, fought actively against Hitler fascism during the 1933–1945 period.

The international situation makes it necessary for the GDR constantly to improve its national defence. The Soviet Union is helping the NVA to keep its armaments up to the latest standards. That the GDR's state frontiers are at all times protected effectively is guaranteed—a fact for which convincing proof has been furnished in recent years by several manoeuvres by the armies of the Warsaw Treaty states.

The German People's Police was founded on 1 July 1945 in what was then the Soviet occupation zone. It serves to protect order and security inside the country. Most People's Policemen are of working-class origin. Hundreds of senior offices are held by people persecuted by the nazi regime who have been awarded the "Fighter against Fascism 1933–1945 Medal". Over 5,000 mem-

bers of the German People's Police are elected deputies of urban and community people's representative bodies.

The residential area officer system guarantees an especially close relationship between the German People's Police and the country's citizens. Residential area officers are assigned a small residential area in towns (generally the area where they themselves live), or a village. They are responsible for order and security in this locality. They rely on the citizen's cooperation in a large measure in the performance of their duty.

Church and State in the GDR

The Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience and freedom of belief. Every citizen has the right to profess a religious creed and to carry out religious activities. There is no state church. The state and the church, the schools and the church are separate.

The churches and other religious communities conduct their affairs and carry out their activities in conformity with the Constitution.

Based on the clear separation of state and church, freedom of conscience and freedom of belief include the citizens' right to follow their conscience as to whether they profess a religious or the atheist world outlook. Being a practising member of a religious community neither substantiates nor curtails a citizen's rights and duties. Taking up employment with a state organ, a nationally-owned or a private enterprise, or a cultural institution is not dependent upon a person's religious or atheist outlook. The Council of Ministers has appointed a State Secretary for Church Affairs in order to keep in understanding touch with the representatives of church institutions.

The position occupied by denominational citizens, the clergy and church officials is determined by their conviction that Christendom and the humanistic objectives of Socialism are not antagonistic. That is why Christians in the GDR cooperate in the peaceful construction of Socialism and vigorously support the government's policy.

There are in the GDR eight Evangelical provincial churches with about 7,500 parishes; the Catholic Church which, with the exception of three small areas, is in Diaspora; and 27 other religious communities. They maintain a large number of denominational charitable institutions (hospitals, old people's homes, children's homes and infirmaries). Apart from many ecclesiastical buildings, these churches also own land which was not affected by the land reform.

Evangelical theologians are trained at four university faculties of theology. They receive a state grant just as do other students in the GDR. The state grants the religious communities substantial sums for clergymen's salaries, and for care for the old, widows and orphans, and annually budgets considerable means for the maintenance and restoration of church buildings and ecclesiastic works of art.

Approximately 6,000 clergymen and vicars, 5,500 catechists, 4,000 parish helpers and 5,500 deacons and deaconesses are working in the 7,500 Evangelical parishes. Over 1,400 priests, 2,700 sisters of an order, and numerous church employees are in the service of the Catholic Church. The religious communities have and sell their own papers and publish books in their own publishing houses. Twenty-seven theological and church papers and journals are put out regularly. Their overall circulation runs to over 360,000 copies.

In addition to the Evangelical-Lutheran and the Catholic churches, there are in the GDR non-conformist sects (Methodists, Baptists, etc.) and Jewish communities. They enjoy the same constitutionally guaranteed rights as the Christian citizens of Evangelical-Lutheran or Catholic denomination who outnumber them.

Foreign Policy

Ever since the foundation of the German Democratic Republic a state has existed on German soil which, for the first time and from the very outset, made peace and security the supreme principles of its foreign policy. The Socialist Constitution states that

the GDR "has eradicated German militarism and nazism on its territory, and pursues a foreign policy serving peace and Socialism, international friendship and security". This foreign policy is likewise aimed against colonialism and racialism. "The German Democratic Republic supports the aspirations of the peoples for freedom and independence, and fosters relations of cooperation with all states on the basis of equality and mutual respect." The Socialist social system is the foundation of this foreign policy conducted by the GDR.

The GDR's international authority is constantly growing. It has become a respected member of the family of nations and it maintains diplomatic relations with over 30 countries. Other relations have been established on state level with nearly 50 other countries. The GDR has trade relations with over 100 countries.

Fraternally Linked with the Soviet Union and the other Socialist Countries

The close and friendly alliance with the Soviet Union and the other members of the community of Socialist states is the unshakable foundation of the GDR's policy. This alliance which rests on the ideas of proletarian internationalism and is based on the same historic aims is the firm foundation for everything that has been achieved in the German Democratic Republic and at the same time the foundation of its certain protection.

The GDR has belonged to the community of treaty states since the conclusion of the Warsaw Treaty on 14 May 1955. The obligations arising out of this treaty have been consistently fulfilled by the GDR. It is guided by the knowledge that the all-sided strengthening and consolidation of the community of Socialist states is the most certain guarantee of the independence and sovereignty of every Socialist country and for the preservation of peace.

The GDR has been a member of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) since 1950. Its cooperation in this international economic organization of Socialist countries is guided by the fact that both the scientific and technological revolution and the growing international division of labour lend an increas-

ing measure of significance to the Socialist countries' economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

A new stage of cooperation has now begun in the community of Socialist states. The practice of social life is leading to ever closer Socialist integration. In foreign policy all steps are jointly discussed and systematically coordinated. In the military field the united action of the armies in the Warsaw Treaty has taken big steps forward. And for Socialist economic integration the perspectives for the next 15 to 20 years are marked out by the coordination of five-year plans and the adoption of the aggregate program of the CMEA countries.

For the Cause of Peace

With its consistent championing of peace and security the GDR's foreign policy does justice to its main task of creating the most favourable external conditions for the construction of Socialism in firm alliance with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the Socialist community. GDR foreign policy always proceeds from the principle that it is to serve the security of working people, their happiness and their well-being.

Setting out from the experiences and lessons of history, the German Democratic Republic devotes great attention to the problems of international security and the relaxation of tensions. The government and people of the GDR support all suggestions and measures which could result in the achievement of stable peace in Europe and in the world.

For International Security and the Relaxation of Tension

The relaxation of tension beginning in Europe on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems is primarily a result of the active peace policy of the USSR and the other Socialist countries.

Within the framework of this uniform and coordinated foreign policy the GDR also makes intensive efforts to solve all those questions which today still disturb the peoples of Europe in their

attempts to live together. A clear and constructive concept was developed at the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. It is in agreement with the interests of all peoples and confirms the GDR's role as a factor of peace in Europe. Its basic ideas are:

- The GDR works for the early convocation of a European conference on security and cooperation.
- The GDR again proclaims its readiness to become a member of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.
- The GDR declares its readiness to establish normal diplomatic relations with all states.
- The GDR further advocates the establishment of normal relations with the FRG according to the principles of international law.
- It is a basic foreign policy interest of the GDR to normalize its relations with West Berlin.

The GDR holds that the European security conference for which members of the Warsaw Treaty have been calling for years is of exceptional significance for the consolidation of European security and thus of international security, too. The GDR is convinced that such a conference would contribute to the well-being and prosperity of every people.

It therefore supports with all its strength the Prague Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee of the participating countries of the Warsaw Treaty, in which the intention was announced of convoking a European security conference before the end of 1972, "in which all European countries take part on a basis of equality as well as the USA and Canada".

The Political Consultative Committee met on 25 and 26 January 1972 in Prague. The countries participating in this session expressed their conviction that the growing international recognition of the German Democratic Republic is an important factor for the consolidation of peace. The Declaration expressly emphasized: "Further progress in this direction, including the establishment of relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with the norms of international law will be an important contribution to the cause of peace, security and cooperation in Europe.

"The participants in the session advocate that the question of the admission of the GDR and the FRG to the United Nations be solved without further delay."

In the Spirit of the United Nations Charter

The GDR likewise shares the point of view of the newly elected Secretary General of the UN, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, that the admission of the GDR and the FRG should take place as soon as possible. The sovereign German Democratic Republic is ready for this at any time and has repeatedly proclaimed its will to be a member of the UN and its specialized agencies in the interest of the peaceful cooperation of the peoples.

In accordance with the principles of its peace policy the GDR supports all steps leading to arms limitation and disarmament. It is also ready, in cooperation with other countries, to employ its scientific potential for the protection of the environment, the opening up of natural resources, the development of communications and transport and the combating of the most dangerous and widespread diseases. Already today the GDR is active as an independent member with full rights in 20 interstate international organizations.

Historic facts prove that those states which recognize the GDR diplomatically and advocate the admission of the GDR to the international organizations have improved the prerequisites for developing relations between the GDR and the FRG.

Relations with the FRG

The GDR and FRG are two sovereign states independent of each other with different social systems. Relations between them can therefore only be on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

The government of the FRG explicitly recognized the existence of two sovereign states independent of each other in connection with the conclusion of the treaties with the USSR and the People's Republic of Poland. It declared that it wanted to establish rela-

tions with the GDR on the basis of full equality and non-discrimination and that it would promote the admission of the FRG and the GDR to the UN and its specialized agencies. It further declared that neither of the two German states could represent the other in foreign countries or act in its name.

The GDR government supports the point of view, which is also shared by the other Socialist countries, that the relations between the GDR and the FRG can only be relations based on international law, complete equality and non-interference. In addition an inseparable connection with the problems of European security arises out of the two states belonging to opposing social orders, military and economic alliances and their geographical situation.

State relations between the GDR and the FRG on the basis of international law would thus be in the interest of the European peoples in a firm contractual guarantee of peace and security in Europe.

Attitude of the GDR towards West Berlin

Since it was founded the German Democratic Republic has worked to normalize relations between the GDR and West Berlin. It always proceeds from the view that that would be an important contribution to the relaxation of tension in the centre of Europe. The efforts of the GDR, in agreement with the USSR and the other Socialist countries, were always directed at having West Berlin cease being a centre of tensions and crisis, and that normal conditions for the life of that city and its inhabitants be safeguarded. That includes recognizing the reality that West Berlin is a city with a special political status, which never belonged to the FRG and will never belong to it. This legal position of West Berlin was clearly stated in the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin of 3 September 1971 and thus has been formulated in international law.

On this basis it is possible to settle all still unclarified questions directly concerning West Berlin's relations with the GDR by means of peaceful negotiations in the interest of the population of the GDR and the inhabitants of West Berlin.

Constructive Steps to the Relaxation of Tensions

In its negotiations with the government of the FRG and the Senate of West Berlin the GDR did everything possible to arrive at positive results. A treaty valid in international law was concluded for the first time between the two states in one sphere with the Transit Agreement between the government of the GDR and the government of the FRG of 17 December 1971. Its importance goes far beyond its special content. This agreement, which fully considers the sovereign rights of the GDR and its legitimate interests, as well as the agreements between the government of the GDR and the Senate of West Berlin on facilitating and improving conditions for travel by visitors and the settlement of the enclaves problem by the exchange of territory of 20 December 1971 are a convincing proof that everyone gains when existing political and legal realities are recognized as a basis for negotiations. At the same time they show that with a constructive attitude even complicated questions can be settled in accordance with international law, in a way that promotes the process of the relaxation of tension in Europe and helps to implement and consolidate the principle of the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems.

At the same time favourable conditions were thereby created for the ratification of the treaties between the USSR and the People's Republic of Poland on the one side, and the FRG on the other.

Moreover, world public opinion assessed the gesture of good will, temporarily to put into force before the ratification of the agreements those regulations for travel by visitors for the Easter and Whitsun holidays in 1972 as a further constructive step towards relaxation by the GDR.

In Firm Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling for Liberty and Independence

The GDR's active struggle for peace is not confined to Europe even though it bears a special responsibility there in view of its geographical situation. On the basis of the common interests in the anti-imperialist struggle the GDR strives to develop and deep-

en its friendly relations with the anti-imperialist countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It grants all those countries and peoples solidarity aid who are fighting against imperialism and colonialism for national independence and freedom.

Thus, the GDR gives determined support to the reasonable proposals of the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam and the liberation movements of Laos and Cambodia as the only realistic way to the political solution of the Indochina question. The demand for the immediate stopping of the US aggression is linked with intensified solidarity aid for the attacked peoples, aid in which the entire population takes part to a high degree. Since the escalation of the American aggression in 1965 alone solidarity goods worth more than 200 million marks have been financed out of contributions by the people. The GDR likewise gives solidarity support to the struggle of the Arab peoples for the reestablishment of their legitimate rights, the bringing about of a just political solution in the Middle East and the defence of the interest of the Arab people of Palestine.

The GDR always took the view concerning the events on the Indian sub-continent that a political solution must be found which is in agreement with the declared will of the people of Bangladesh and their elected representatives.

It works for the independence and freedom of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and for the liberation of the peoples of Rhodesia and South Africa from racist oppression.

The basic agreement of the GDR with the national liberation struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and its unswerving work for the consolidation of the independence of the liberated countries led to a growing expansion and deepening of relations. The GDR assesses this step as an expression of the great understanding of the governments of these countries, which frequently culminated in the establishment of full diplomatic relations, for international realities, as a consistent attitude to the safeguarding of peace and as a good foundation for the further development of mutual fruitful collaboration. It is of the opinion that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the GDR and all other countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America is on the agenda.

The GDR—A Modern Socialist Industrial Country

The German Democratic Republic has also advanced steadily in the economic sector during the more than 20 years that have passed since its foundation. The GDR has overcome the economic disproportions and surmounted other substantial difficulties despite its slight mineral wealth, despite the other unfavourable economic conditions that still prevailed throughout the country in 1949, and despite the brutal economic war reactionary FRG circles waged against the young workers' and farmers' state across the frontier which was still open at that time. Today, the GDR is a highly-developed Socialist industrial state with an up-to-date agriculture. It ranks among the world's top ten industrial countries.

Development of the National Economy (in millions of marks)

	1949	1963	1969	1970
Total social product	51,530	179,939	260,647	275,094
National income (Net product)	22,320	76,692	102,825	108,320

Percentage Share in the Net Product According to Forms of Ownership

Socialist ownership	85.5
of which nationally-owned property	68.2
cooperative property	17.3
Enterprises with state participation or commission contract	8.6
Private ownership	5.9

Working Population (without Apprentices) 1970

Total	7,769,000
of which industry	2,838,000
building industry	572,000
Agriculture and forestry	997,000
Transport, postal and telecommunications services	564,000
Trade	857,000
Apprentices (total)	449,000

The foundations upon which the GDR national economy has steadily developed are:

- leadership by the working class and its party, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and its firm alliance with all working people;
- Socialist ownership of the means of production;
- Socialist state power and Socialist planned economy;
- Socialist democracy, i.e., the citizens' creative cooperation in all spheres of public life in accordance with the principle "Participate in working, in planning and in governing!"

The German Democratic Republic is a firm unshakable part of the community of Socialist states. Thus, the stable and continual growth of the GDR is especially inseparably linked with the long-term agreed upon cooperation with the USSR and the other Socialist brother countries, with the use of the advantages of the Socialist international division of labour and the personal relations of the working people of the participating countries. The member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) adopted an aggregate program in July 1971 which determines for the next 15 to 20 years the course for the further deepening and perfection of collaboration and for the development of Socialist economic integration.

Industry

In 1950, i.e., one year after the founding of the GDR, industrial production surpassed the pre-war (1936) level. It had tripled by 1960. Proceeding from that year, industrial development progressed as follows:

Index of Gross Industrial Production (1960 = 100)

1964	125
1968	159
1970	181

Erecting and expanding a national basic industry as a foundation for the industries that have always been traditional in the territory that now makes up the GDR (mechanical engineering, the textile industry, precision engineering and the optical industry) characterized industrial developments until 1967.

The following branches of industry have been newly created in the GDR since 1949:

Chemical plant construction
Shipbuilding

Deep-sea fishing
Fishing vessel construction
Control engineering
Petroleum and natural gas extraction

Production of television sets
Data processing equipment construction

Semi-conductor engineering
Plastics processing
Farm machinery construction

Power plant construction

Electricity generation is one of the criteria of a country's economic development. When one considers that electric energy is primarily produced from lignite in the GDR, and that lignite is produced from open-cast mining (with considerable difficulties in unfavourable weather conditions), one can understand the achievements reflected in the following table:

Electric Energy Generated in the GDR (in millions of kwh)

1950	19,466	1965	53,611
1955	28,695	1969	65,463
1960	40,304	1970	67,650

The following branches contributed to the 1970 earned national income of 108.32 thousand million marks

Industry and the producing crafts	68.58 thousand million marks
Building industry	9.2 thousand million marks
Agriculture and forestry	13.14 thousand million marks
Domestic trade	14.18 thousand million marks

Output of Selected, Important Industrial Products

Product	Unit	1960	1970
Lignite	1,000 t	225,465	260,582
Potash fertilizers	1,000 t K_2O	1,666	2,419
Nitrogen fertilizers	t N	334,117	378,009
Crude steel	1,000 t	3,750	5,053
Sulphuric acid	t H_2SO_4	729,941	1,099,204
Plastics and synthetic resins	t	115,093	370,200
Chemical engineering machinery and plant	million marks	349	724
Metal-cutting machine tools	million marks	344	680
Monitoring, control and adjustment plant and machinery	million marks	104.7	620
Refrigerators	No.	138,569	380,325
Washing machines	No.	132,461	254,494
Motorcars	No.	64,071	126,611
Furniture	million marks	990	2,023

The Growth of Individual Branches of Industry (1950 = 100)

	1955	1960	1970
Power and fuel industry	137	169	247
Chemical industry	190	290	613
Metallurgy	246	354	587
Machinery and vehicle construction	209	365	734
Electrical engineering/electronics/ apparatus construction	228	460	1,144

New Tasks in Industry

The Eighth Congress of the SED in June 1971 adopted a decision on the main task of the five-year plan for the period 1971 to 1975. It consists in the further increase in the material and cultural standard of living of the people on the basis of a high rate of development of Socialist production, raising effectiveness, scientific and technical progress and higher labour productivity. (Also see page 20).

The following rates of growth are planned for the period of the 1971–1975 five-year plan:

– raising the produced national income by 26 to 28 per cent;
– raising industrial commodity production by 34 to 36 per cent;
– raising labour productivity in industry by 35 to 37 per cent.

The Development of the Industrial Commodity Production of Selected Spheres in the 1970–1975 Plan Period (1970 = 100)

Total industrial commodity production	134–136
Chemical industry	147–149
Metallurgy	132–135
Electrical engineering/electronics	168–176
Construction of control engineering equipment	193–200
Heavy engineering and plant construction	140–142
Production of malleable cast iron	140–146
Production of hydraulic products	190–200
Machine tools	146–154
Textile machines	146–150

For industry it is a question of further developing and perfecting the material and technical basis of the national economy and raising the technical level and efficiency of production, in particular by means of the rational utilization of research and production capacities. These tasks include in detail the increasing mechanization and automation of many production processes, the employment of new high stress work materials, the considerable development of the energy basis and an increase in the production of consumer goods.

Investments in the National Economy (in thousand million marks)

1950	3.6	1965	20.5
1955	8.1	1967	24.0
1960	16.1	1970	32.6

The main way to increase the volume and quality of social production is to intensify it and raise its effectiveness. The intensification of production means to increase it by modernizing and better utilizing the existing production installations, by producing more with the same number of workers. Socialist rationalization, which is undertaken by the working people themselves in their own basic

interest and which is linked with a direct improvement in their working and living conditions, is an inevitable part of the intensification of production.

Agricultural Production Cooperatives (LPGs)

GDR farmers have joined together in agricultural production cooperatives since 1952. This voluntary movement reached its climax in the spring of 1960. There are three types of these cooperatives.
Type I: Members bring only their cultivable land for joint use and cultivation into the cooperative in accordance with the statute.
Type II: Cooperative cultivation and use of the cultivable land, pastures, permanent cultures and other useful areas brought in by the members. On the basis of a plan adopted by the membership meeting the prerequisites are created for systematically expanding cooperative operations and shifting to type III step by step.
Type III: Cooperative cultivation and use of the agricultural and forest land brought in by the members; cooperative ownership and cooperative use of tractors, machines, implements and farm buildings and of animals and breeding animals as is stipulated in the statute.

Share of Arable Land by Form of Enterprise (in per cent)

LPGs	86.0
Horticultural production cooperatives	0.3
Nationally-owned farms and other nationally-owned enterprises	8.0
Church lands, small parcels, etc.	5.7

Development of Agricultural Production Cooperatives

Year	No. of LPGs	Members	of whom women	Arable land in hectares
1952	1,906	37,000	8,470	218,043
1958	9,637	352,938	156,502	2,386,020
1960	19,313	961,539	438,658	5,420,476
1970	9,009[1]	890,521	423,886	5,392,416

[1] The reduction is explained by the union of smaller LPGs into larger, economically stronger farms.

The Development of Hectare Yields of Important Crops
(average hectare yields in 100 kilograms)

	1934–35	1958–62	1963–64	1970
Grain	20.6	25.0	25.8	28.2
Potatoes	173.0	161.2	172.7	195.7
Sugar beets	291.0	245.2	263.7	320.1
Hay	39.5	42.1	39.2	53.8

Level of Education in Socialist Agriculture

	1963	1970
Graduation from college	4,095	7,438
Graduation from technical school	16,789	28,313
Foreman's examination	28,541	47,135
Skilled worker's examination	136,894	427,923

Degree of Mechanization of Field and Stall Work (in per cent)

	1958	1970
Potato digging with combine harvester	6.8	76.7
Beet harvesting with combine harvester	18.6	91.4
Cutting and swathing with combine harvester	18.4	98.9
Mechanical milking	–	80.8

Animals per 100 hectares of Arable Land (units)

	1950	1970
Cattle	55.4	82.6
of which cows	24.8	34.4
Pigs	87.4	154.0
Laying hens	133.6	405.2

The average milk yield per cow grew from 2,184 kilograms in 1954 to 2,982 kilograms in 1965 and 3,363 kilograms in 1969.

The GDR's Socialist agriculture covers the requirements of the population for the main foodstuffs such as meat, milk, eggs, potatoes and sugar almost completely, 95.8 per cent for butter, 83.9 per cent for fresh vegetables and 75.8 per cent for grains.

Cooperative Democracy

The highest body of the cooperative is the membership meeting. It decides on all important questions, as, for example, the confirmation or amendment of the statute, the election or recall of the chairman and executive committee. The membership meeting confirms the report of activities, the production and finance plans, it determines the work norms and distributes the income. The executive organ of the membership meeting is the executive committee which is elected by the members for a term of two years.

Important forms of democratic co-determination by the working people in agriculture are the councils for agricultural production and the food industry which advise the state organs. Cooperative farmers exert a decisive influence in these councils and their commissions on the management of agriculture. Farmers' congresses elect the councils for agricultural production and the food industry on the district, county and republic level. For example, 59 cooperative farmers (men and women) belong to the Council for Agricultural Production and the Food Industry of the GDR.

Cooperation

Through cooperation partnerships the cooperative farmers specialize and intensify their production and obtain as a result higher yields and gains in the interest of the cooperative and also of the state. The main road of this process is the economic linking of neighbouring production cooperatives and nationally-owned farms and the formation of cooperation associations between farms and the food industry or the trade in foodstuffs.

The New Village

The centuries-old difference between town and countryside is increasingly disappearing. This is proved by well-equipped rural department stores and modern shops, crèches and kindergartens, outpatient departments and community nursing stations, houses

of culture, village clubs and public libraries. Every person employed in agriculture has a right to a paid annual holiday and their children attend modern schools. The new village is increasingly characterized by the use of agrarian science, highly developed agricultural machinery and a cultured life.

The Transport System

Sixty per cent of all means of transport on the territory of the GDR were destroyed in the Second World War. Today the German Democratic Republic possesses an efficient transport system.

Goods Transport Services According to Branch of Transport (in millions of ton-kilometres)

Year	1949	1955	1960	1965	1970
Total	15,161	31,064	50,637	78,493	128,008
of which					
Railways	12,398	25,222	32,860	38,868	41,513
Road transport	840	1,477	2,638	3,994	6,197
Inland shipping	1,123	2,168	2,252	2,196	2,358
Ocean shipping	–	480	10,518	30,204	69,721
Civil aviation	–	–	4.7	13.1	26.6

Passenger Traffic (in millions of passenger-kilometres)

Year	1955	1960	1965	1970
Total	34,448	39,004	38,611	42,525
of which				
Railways	22,905	21,288	17,446	17,666
Road transport	4,500	9,364	12,871	16,299
Local transport	6,399	7,369	6,972	6,304
Inland water transport	158	198	247	232
Ocean transport	0	48	66	92
Civil aviation	–	165	373	947
Works traffic with motor vehicles	486	571	636	985

GDR Traffic Routes (1970)

Railway lines	14,658 kilometres
Roads (autobahns and trunk roads)	12,416 kilometres
Roads, 1st and 2nd class	33,313 kilometres
Inland water routes	2,519 kilometres
Pipelines	681 kilometres

The GDR's rail network is one of the densest in Europe.

The Stock of Ships of the GDR's Ocean Merchant Fleet

Year	1960	1970
Ships	47	175
Tonnage in tdw.	277,424	1,339,953

(Not including ocean-going and coastal passenger ships)

Air Transport

The GDR's air transport came into existence in 1956. The air routes of the Interflug Airline Company increased from five in 1956 to 39 foreign and inland routes in 1970. Interflug has three airports, in Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden, with runways for intercontinental jet aircraft. In 1970 Interflug carried 841,000 passengers and 17,324 tons of goods. In addition there are the spraying flights of the aviochemical service for fertilizing fields and combating pests on nearly 1,330,000 hectares of land.

Transit

The GDR is an important transit country in Europe on all transport levels. Ten railway crossing points and the central control and directing centre in Seddin satisfy all demands of international rail transport. The international time schedules envisage up to 20 TEEM trains (goods traffic) and up to 100 fast and express trains for international passenger traffic crossing the GDR. Two ferry connections with Denmark (Gedser) and Sweden (Trelleborg), operated by the Danish and Swedish State Railways and the German Railways, guarantee a safe and quick connection with Northern Europe.

The External Economic Relations of the GDR

As a highly developed industrial country the German Democratic Republic is closely related with the world economy in diverse ways. A considerable part of the national income is obtained from commodity exchange and economic, scientific and technical cooperation with other countries.

Foreign Trade Turnover in Thousands of Millions of Clearing Marks

1952	6.3	1965	24.7
1960	18.5	1970	39.6

Thanks to its industrial efficiency and the continuous and dynamic growth of ist national economy the GDR has developed into an internationally esteemed trade partner. At present it maintains trade relations with most countries, with more than 50 countries on the basis of long-term agreements. In the organization of its external economic relations the GDR has always proceeded from the principles of equality and mutual advantage. It is not only an exporter of high quality products but also represents an important market for its partners.

The GDR is linked by especially close economic collaboration on the basis of long-term government agreements with the USSR and the other Socialist countries. Thus, for example, the trade agreement signed in 1970 between the GDR and the USSR is the biggest such agreement ever concluded between two countries. It envisages commodity exchanges from 1971 to 1975 to the value of some 22 thousand million rubles.

Development of the Leipzig Fair after 1949

Spring Fair Year	Exhibition area in 1,000 sq.metres	Exhibitors
1950	144.5	8,057
1960	297.0	9,472
1971	350.0	9,500
Autumn Fair		
1950	74.9	5,918
1960	115.0	6,853
1971	270.6	6,500

Domestic Trade

The nationally-owned retail trade organization (HO), consumer cooperative retail trade, trade enterprises with state participation or commission contracts, private retail trade, restaurants and craft enterprises with retail trade are the most important agencies of domestic trade in the GDR.

Retail Trade Shops According to Form of Ownership

Total	149,830
Socialist retail trade	77,785
of which consumer cooperative retail trade	35,930
Commission trade and trade with state participation	13,258
Private retail trade	58,787

Retail Trade Turnover (in thousand million marks)

Year	1950	1960	1970
Food and related products	10.5	24.9	35.7
Industrial commodities	6.7	20.0	28.1

Since 1950 the GDR's retail trade turnover has more than quadrupled despite reduced prices of many commodities (in part price reductions of up to 50 per cent). The causes are the increased production of foodstuffs and consumer goods, the constantly growing purchasing power of the people as well as a number of technical trade measures. Among these measures is the union of the biggest department stores into the Centrum Department Store Association and the formation of the Kontex and Magnet Shops, the foundation of two mail-order houses in Leipzig and Karl Marx Stadt with over 100 million marks in commodity turnover each and the complex expansion of rural trade up to the mobile supply service with special motor vehicles.

Consumption is to increase by 21 per cent from 1971 to 1975.

The Standard of Living

The standard of living cannot be measured solely by the present wages, salaries and prices. A high standard of living includes a crisis-free stable economy (without unemployment), ensured wages and prices, care in old age, comprehensive state and enterprise hygiene and social care, preventative labour safety and health protection, free medical, hospital and cure treatment, guaranteed holidays, protection of pregnant women and children and an integrated Socialist educational system and tuition-free school, technical school and university training. Along with the high purchasing power of the currency, factors like low social expenditures (rent, services), the shortening of working hours to $43^3/_4$ or 42 hours and a five-day work week play an important role when the standard of living is under consideration. Payments and benefits from the state budget for the population (price subsidies, support, etc.) amounted to 110 thousand million marks in the last five years.

Expenditures of an Average Family (three persons) as a Per Cent of Entire Income

Food	26.6
Articles of enjoyment	9.3
Shoes and textiles	12.4
Other durable goods	16.5
Transportation	1.7
Rent	2.9
Electricity, gas, heating	1.4
Culture and recreation	2.5
Taxes, contributions, savings	23.0
Other expenditures	3.7

The average net income in the households of workers and salaried employees increased from 758 marks in 1960 to 1,031 marks in 1970.

High Quality Durable Goods per 100 Households

Electric washing machines	53.6
Electric refrigerators	56.4
Television sets	70.0
Radio sets (not counting second and third sets)	91.9
Motorcycles, scooters, mopeds	41.7
Motorcars	15.6

At the end of January 1971 the prices for an entire assortment of textiles made of synthetic fibres and other industrial commodities were reduced. This reduction in consumer prices amounted to from 6 to 34 per cent (averaging about 20 per cent).

The Educational System

The universal implementation of the right to an education for everyone is one of the significant achievements of Socialist society.

Immediately after the destruction of fascism the evil spirit of nazism in the schools and colleges was eliminated and its adherents removed. The next step was to break the bourgeois educational privilege and to open the doors of all educational centres to the children of workers and peasants. To plant the great ideas of the struggle for peace and international friendship and against imperialism, militarism, colonialism and racial discrimination in the minds and hearts of children was the priority task of the new teachers who for the most part came from working-class and peasant families.

The advancing construction of Socialism in the GDR makes possible the working out of a modern, uniform Socialist educational system in town and countryside. It extends from pre-school education in the kindergartens (3 to 6 years of age) to college and includes an effective vocational training and diverse forms of continuous adult qualification. Every citizen is thereby given the possibility, in the age of the scientific and technological revolution, to keep pace with the rapid developments in all fields and share consciously and expertly in working and making decisions in the state, economy and society. That is an important prerequisite for developing the universally educated active Socialist personality.

School and university study are free of charge in the GDR. Some 90 per cent of all students in the colleges and technical schools receive a grant. In 1970 the state spent over 5.8 thousand million marks for educational purposes.

Attendance of the ten-class general polytechnical secondary school is a legal obligation. Ninety-eight per cent of the 1971 school-leavers received an apprenticeship contract. Comprehensive and early vocational guidance and consultation facilitates the choice of a vocation for the young people, which is adapted both to the interests of the national economy and also to personal desires.

The extended secondary schools (11th and 12th classes) and the three-year apprentice training with Abitur lead to the Abitur (school-leaving examination of college entrance level).

There have been no one-teacher schools in the rural areas since 1960. There are now only full-class schools which are often established as central schools for several villages.

General Polytechnical Secondary Schools, Special Schools and Extended Secondary Schools

Year	Schools	Pupils in 1,000	Pupils per class	Pupils per fully employed teacher
1955	11,007	1,883.4	26.8	24.9
1960	9,729	2,059.0	27.1	23.8
1965	8,883	2,425.6	27.0	20.0
1970	6,878	2,667.3	26.8	19.3

Universities and Colleges

In 1970, 89 out of 10,000 inhabitants were studying. Since 1945 the number of universities and colleges has increased from six to 54. In 1970 about 139,000 students were matriculated. In addition there are young people from 60 countries who study under the same conditions as young GDR citizens.

A process of reorganizing research and education is at present taking place in the third reform of higher education with the broad cooperation of the students. Proceeding from the scientific social prognosis study is to enable the students to engage at an early stage in independent, creative, scientifically productive work which does justice to the high demands of practice under conditions of the scientific and technological revolution in Socialist society.

Universities and Colleges

Year	Students, total	of which female in 1,000	Students per 10,000 inhabitants	New admissions in 1,000	Graduates in 1,000
1955	74,742	19.1	41.7	19.1	7.6
1960	101,773	25.4	59.0	31.2	15.1
1965	108,791	28.4	63.8	24.0	20.2
1970	138,666	49.3	81.3	41.6	20.4

Technical schools

Year	Students, total	of which female in 1,000	Students per 10,000 inhabitants	New admissions in 1,000	Graduates in 1,000
1960	126,018	36.0	73.1	57.8	24.5
1965	111,822	34.5	65.7	42.1	33.2
1970	164,600	80.9	96.5	55.1	34.8

In 1970 every ninth gainfully employed person in the Socialist economy had graduated from college or technical school. The possibilities of constantly further qualifying include enterprise and village academies, courses in the people's college (evening study) and the television academy, extension study in the colleges and technical schools, and special facilities for working women to study.

The Health and Social Service

The Socialist Constitution of the GDR guarantees every citizen the right to the protection of his health, labour power and social security. Expenditures of thousands of millions are provided in the state budget every year for the health and social care of the people. In 1970 the amount was 5.9 thousand million marks (not counting social insurance).

About 355,000 employees work in the institutions of the health and social services, including over 27,000 doctors. Today one doctor cares for 626 people (in 1949 it was 1,429).

In the main, 452 polyclinics, 828 outpatient stations, 2,067 stations manned by a doctor, 911 town and rural ambulances, 1,301 state medical practices and 680 state stomatological practices provide for outpatient treatment. Including prophylactic consultations there are an average of six consultations per person per year.

The basic principle of the health service in the GDR is prophylactic health care. To protect and promote health certain groups of the population (pregnant women, infants, pre-school children, pupils, working people with health endangering occupations) are under constant medical supervision. Special consultation centres care for people with certain diseases (diabetes, rheumatism, tuberculosis, etc.).

Series examinations have proved useful. With their help persons who are ill or whose health is endangered are discovered and given regular medical supervision. The x-ray examinations of all persons from the age of 15 which have been introduced in order to discover tuberculosis at an early period are also useful in the early discovery of other diseases of the chest, especially tumours and heart diseases.

The regular medical examination of endangered working people follows the series examinations (dispensary care), which is being systematically expanded.

In the GDR all children and certain age levels of adults are obligatorily inoculated against smallpox, tuberculosis, infantile paralysis, tetanus, diphtheria, measles and whooping cough. Every year more than two million people receive the first or second repeat inoculation. One of the most dangerous diseases, poliomyelitis (spinal meningitis), has been completely abolished. That was made possible by the unselfish aid of the Soviet Union which made available the highly effective Sabin-Chumakov serum. Diphtheria has become a rare disease and tuberculosis significantly reduced.

Pregnant women and mothers receive the special care of the state. In 1970, 1,046 consultation stations for pregnant women cared for expectant mothers. The main content of the activity is

directed at a normal pregnancy; among other things, easier jobs and the like can be prescribed. Here, there is no loss of pay because the enterprise is obligated to pay equalization money.

Pregnancy and maternal leave amounting to 14 weeks (six of which are to be taken before the birth) are also provided. During this period the average net earnings of the last three months is paid. The birth of the child itself takes place, even when a normal birth is expected, in a maternal ward. At present more than 98 per cent of all births take place in clinics. The costs are borne by the social insurance system.

An important social measure is the birth allowance of 500 marks for the first child, 600 marks for the second, 700 marks for the third, 850 marks for the fourth and 1,000 marks for the fifth and each subsequent child.

The newborn baby is not only looked after by its parents. It is also cared for by the employees of the maternal consultation centres for the first three years. In 1970, 10,275 institutions of this kind cared for 231,122 babies.

All these measures had the effect, among others, that in 1970 the lowest infant mortality rate up to now was reached in the GDR (18.8 per 1,000 live births). Maternal mortality was reduced to 4.4 per 10,000 births and was less than half that of 1960.

The social insurance system of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions provides for the workers and salaried employees. Members of agricultural and other production cooperatives, craftsmen, free-lance workers and others are cared for by the social insurance of the German Insurance Company.

The conclusion of an employment relation involves compulsory insurance. Out of it arises a legal claim to benefits in cash and kind, also for members of one's family who are not in employment. The worker or salaried employee pays 10 per cent of his wage or salary as a contribution to the social insurance system with a maximum contribution of 60 marks per month. The employing enterprise pays the same amount to the social insurance system plus three per cent for accident insurance. Mining enterprises pay higher, agricultural production cooperatives lower, enterprise contributions.

The claim to medical and dental treatment, medicaments and other curatives of various kinds, hospital care and home treatment,

and cures arises out of the obligatory insurance. These benefits are not limited either in amount or duration.

Sick pay in the GDR amounts to 50 per cent of one day's gross average wage subject to contribution payments, and for six weeks in the year there is in addition the payment of a wage equalization. With this, the sick person receives 90 per cent of his net earnings, during this time.

Since 1 March 1971 all working people with a monetary income of up to 600 marks per month receive, after the end of the wage equalization payment, that is, from the seventh week of illness, sick pay amounting to 70 to 90 per cent of net earnings for the duration of incapacity to work. The amount of sick pay is based on the number of children.

Just as favourable sick pay will also be received in future by all working people who have a monthly income over 600 marks and have joined the voluntary supplementary insurance system.

Cultural Life

Promoting and developing culture and art as the affair of the people is basic constitutional law in the GDR. Socialist society preserves all values of the national cultural heritage and of world culture. The GDR spends considerable means for the preservation and care of cultural monuments and national memorials, for the expansion of art collections and museums.

Five hundred fifty-two museums have developed into genuine cultural educational centres. They include the rebuilt Dresden Zwinger with the Semper Gallery, which is one of the most frequented collections of pictures in the world, the Pergamon Altar and the Egyptian, Asia Minor and antique collections in the capital Berlin.

With 101 theatres, the GDR is one of the countries in the world with the most theatres. Its stages perform the most outstanding works of the humanist heritage of national and world literature, works of Socialist realism, works of younger authors of the GDR and from abroad. There are theatres for children and young people

in Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Halle. Because of the great artistic successes of its theatres the GDR was admitted to the International Theatre Institute of the UNESCO and there belongs to the leading forces of the progressive theatre.

There are 82 state theatre and concert orchestras in the GDR. Numerous forms of subscription facilitate the regular attendance at concerts at reduced prices.

GDR citizens are increasingly using the many possibilities to freely develop their own artistic talents. Nearly 1,000 houses of culture and club-houses today form centres of cultural work by the masses. More than 10,000 interest groups with 190,000 participants in various fields are active in these houses and are to a large part sponsored by professional artists. Thus, for example, the 95 worker and farmer theatres appeared in 1970 before audiences of nearly 713,500 in more than 2,200 performances. Every year the climax of the mass cultural work is the Workers' Festival in which about 10,000 professional and amateur artists take part.

In the sphere of publication the GDR is in the first rank internationally with an annual production of seven books per inhabitant. Along with belletristic literature, natural and social science technical literature is being published to an ever greater extent.

New Publications of Books and Pamphlets (including re-issues)

Year	Title	Edition in 1,000
1955	4,809	63,500
1970	5,234	121,857

The broad network of libraries offers the possibility to borrow books in nearly all communities of the GDR.

Public Libraries

Year	Number	No. of books	Readers	Books lent	Books lent per reader
1960	11,987	12.5 million	2.3 million	39.6 million	17.3
1970	11,692	20.6 million	3.2 million	55.6 million	17.1

In addition about 1.1 million readers make use of the scientific and trade union libraries.

There were 858 cinemas with 312,147 places available to the people in 1970. There are regular film showings in 520 village cinemas. The GDR is a member of eight international film organizations.

In the GDR television is an important factor of social, intellectual and cultural life. There is a television set in nearly four and a half million households. The GDR Television Service broadcasts on two channels, one of which is in part in colour (Sesam system). In 1960 the weekly broadcast time was 58 hours, in 1970 about 116 hours.

Physical Culture and Sports

At present some one third of the people regularly engage in sports or devote themselves to tourism. As physical culture and sports are essential foundations for public health they are especially promoted. Among others sportsmen can make use of 312 sports stadiums, 924 sports graunds, 184 sports halls, 96 indoor swimming pools, and installations for contests, 1,306 sports homes and 3,460 gymnasiums.

Sports instruction is obligatory and a main subject in all GDR schools. In addition 450,000 pupils are active in sports clubs. Every year, in summer and winter, central children's and young people's spartakiads are held; 3.05 million children and young people took part in the 1970 elimination contests.

About two million members train in the 7,416 sports clubs of the German Gymnastics and Sports Federation (DTSB). A further 1.5 million people belong to sports groups in the enterprises and residential areas. Others engage in sports without being members of a club.

With this broad popular sports movement competitive sport has a good basis in the GDR so that top performances have been achieved. Just in the past years GDR athletes have had successes which repeatedly aroused international attention.

The appreciation of GDR sports is also expressed by the fact that

Medals Won by GDR Participants in the Olympic Games

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956	–	–	1
Melbourne 1956	1	4	2
Squaw Valley 1960	2	1	–
Rome 1960	3	9	7
Innsbruck 1964	2	2	–
Tokyo 1964	3	11	5
Grenoble 1968	1	2	2
Mexico City 1968	9	9	7
Sapporo 1972	4	5	3

the sports associations, sports science and the sports press in the GDR cooperate on a basis of equality in 76 international federations. The National Olympic Committee of the GDR has been recognized by the International Olympic Committee since 1955.